Rip Van Winkle

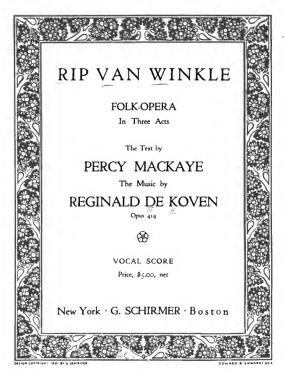
Reginald De Koven, Percy MacKaye Mus 645.8.640

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Argument

Аст I

The action begins about the middle of the eighteenth century on the village green of a Dutch community in the Catskills.

Here Nicholas Vedder, landlord of the Inn, has two daughters, Katrina and Peterkee. The elder—Katrina—a buxom but shrewish give is betrothed to Rip Van Winkle, a happy-go-lucky vagabond of the village; Peterkee, still a child in her early teens, attends the school of Derrick Van Bummel, whose son Jan, a stuttering foolish fellow, desires Katrina's hand for himself and is favored by Nicholas on account of his property.

The wedding settlement between Katiina and Rip, however, is ready to be signed, when Derrick enters dragging in Peterskee as a culprit whom Rip has lured away to play hookie from school with the other children. Clad in ragged Dutch trousers and carrying a fishpole, Peterskee admits that, at Rip's instigation, she has been fishing with plumcake for a memaid in a mountain brook. At this moment Rip himself appears with the school children, flying a kite. Absorbed in his play with them, he has totally forgotten his wedding engagement with Katrina, who berates him fiercely and leaves him bewildered and crestfallen, while Peterskee is taken by her father to be punished in the Inn.

A Goose-girl now cheers up Rip, by getting him to join her and the children in a dance, which is terminated by an approaching thundershower, as Peterkee-escaped from her father's punishment-hastens to Rip to be comforted. Listening to the thunder, Rip tells her and the children the legend of Hendrick Hudson and his Crew, how every twenty years they return in their ghostly ship, the Half Moon, to hold a bowling party in the mountains. At the climax of his tale, with a great thunderclap, Hendrick Hudson himself appears in a sunshine shower. All take flight but Rip and Peterkee, whom Hendrick invites to his midnight party to play at ninepins, when he promises to give Rip a magic flask as a wedding gift. At this, Rip turns exultantly to Katrina, who is reentering, but as she comes. Hendrick vanishes. Rip tells her of Hendrick's offer, but Katrina, mocking Rip's credulity, tells him to return with his magic flask by the morrow's sundown or she will marry Jan. Rip replies confidently-and Peterkee says she will help him find the flask. The voice of Hendrick is heard calling, and amidst the storm Rip and Peterkee set forth together for the mountains.

Act II

(Scene 1.) Stopping at Rip's hut after the storm to make preparation for their journey, Rip and Peterkee continue their way (Scene 2) by a dusky footpath, up the mountain, attended by fairy voices of calling Katydids and the plaintive cry of the Whippoorwill. So they encounter Dirck Spuytenduyvil, mate of the Half Moon, carrying two kegs of liquor, which Rip helps him to carry to the mountain peak.

(Scene 3.) There, by moonlight, are gathered Hendrick Hudson and his ghostly crew, who welcome them to their bowling party, during which Hendrick and Dirck plot to bring about the future wedding of Rip to Peterkee, instead of to Katrina, by detaining Rip on the mountain till their return after twenty years. To this end, Peterkee is allowed to win the magic flask in a bowling match with Dirck, who then conducts her down the mountain, saying Rip will follow, while Rip—absorbed and delighted in his play of lightning and thunder—is plied with a sleeping-potion, the ninth draught of which overwhelms him with slumber, just as the golden Half Moon comes sailing into view on the air, manned by the ghostly sailors, singing him a lullaby of farewell.

Act III

(Scene 1.) At sunrise, on the mountain peak, Rip is awakened by he is bewildered to find himself old, white-bearded and weather-beaten. Calling on Peterkee, he disappears in the mists, from which now emerge into view (Scene 2) the runed chimney and walls of Rip's hut, entangled with vinces and shrubbery. Here Peterkee, now a young woman, in bridal clothes, comes searching for the magic flash. Finding it in the chimney niche where she left it, she reveals how she tasted its enchanted waters of youth and prays that Rip, so long lost, may yet return to h's home. Ancient and strange, Rip himself appears before her like a "fairy goblin." In their scene together they are on the point of recognition, when old Nicholas enters, chiding Peterkee for running away from the wedding at sundown and, despite Rip's protest, hurries her off with him, leaving Rip to a sadly mystified soliloquy by his ruined hearth.

(Scene 3.) But now, on the village green by the Inn, Hans Van Bummel, younger brother of Jan, is about to be wedded to Peterkee, who has stubbornly refused to marry for these twenty years past, during which Katrina and Jan have reared a large family of their own. Now, as Nicholas comes with Peterkee, and the ceremony is about to proceed, barking dogs and hooting children announce the entrance of old Rip, who comes

claiming his promised bride at sundown.

Mocked and struck down as an intruding beggar, he is befriended by Peterkee, who gives him as alms the magic flask. As Rip puts this to his lips, lightning and thunder prelude the reappearance of Hendrick Hudson and his crew, who—to miraculous organ-peasl—troop forth in wedding raiment from the church, as Rip appears in the fairy light restored to his youth. Rigid as ninepins the aghast Dutch folk are bowled into oblivion, as Rip and Peterkee are united in their wedding at sundown.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

RIP VAN WINKLE
HENDRICK HUDSON
DIRCK SPUYTENDUYVIL
NICHOLAS VEDDER
DERRICK VAN BUMMEL
JAN VAN BUMMEL
HANS VAN BUMMEL
PETERKEE VEDDER
KATRINA VEDDER
GOOSE-GIRL

High Baritone
Bass-Baritone
Bass
Bass
Baritone
Tenor
Mute
Soprano
Soprano
Mezzo-Soprano

PLACE AND TIME
In the Catskill Mountains
About the middle of the Eighteenth Century

SCENES

- ACT I. A Village Green, with Inn and Church (late afternoon)
- Act II. Scene First: Rip Van Winkle's Hut (interior) on the border of the Village and Forest (early evening)

 Scene Second: A Forest Path up the Mountain (moonlight)
 - Scene Third: The Peak of the Mountain (midnight and after)
- Act III. (Twenty years later)

Scene First: The Peak of the Mountain (dawn)

Scene Second: Rip's Hut (exterior) in ruins (toward sundown)

Scene Third: The Village Green of Act I, with alterations (sundown)

RIP VAN WINKLE

Rip Van Winkle

Folk-Opera in Three Acts

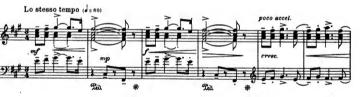


Prelude

Music by Reginald de Koven. Op. 414













ACT I

Introduction

It is a sleepy, old-timey scene: a small village green, shaded by an immense elm; on the left, a rustic Inn; on the right, a quaint Church, with porch; between them— vista of cloud-tle-cked mountains and a blue-green river-valley. Near the church— a fountain, where Women of the village gather to do their washing.

On wooden benches by the Inn old Men sit basking in the sunshine. Lazily from their long pipes they puff little clouds of tobacco smoke.



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(Banging clatter bursts from the Inn, and a pewter plate comes skimming out and falls on ground. Women stop washing, and men take their pipes from their mouths)













Bummel, a fat young man, comes stumbling forth from the Inn, trying to keep a sedate poise in spite of a fierce thrust



from behind. He is a foolish-faced young man of about 30, whose general air of duliness is livened only by the dandified fashion of his garb, and by a big red tulip, which he holds in both hands. He calls back, stuttering)





























quential wrath the portly form of Derrick Van Bummel. By his side, at arm's-length, he holds by the ear a stim childish figure in ragged Dutch trousers, carrying a fishpole, with line and bait.)







(At Derrick's sweeping gesture, the onlookers all draw back in a wide circle, in the centre of which Peterkee stands dreamily oblivious of the thundrous voice of Derrick. In one hand she clutches the fishpole, with the other she rubs her ear, which Derrick has just released)































Allegro moderato



































Two.





































Meantime, from the Inn door, Peterkee comes stealthily out, half hidden under a great cloak. Hurrying toward Rip under the tree, she glances back furtively toward the Inn)



































aempre ss aempre se aempre













































Entr'acte I





ACT II Scene I

(Rip's hut in the woods at approaching twilight. Rip and Peterkee come on the scene together, open the door of the k and enter.)



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(A mountain path in the forest. Twilight is paling to shadowy moonlight. Rip and Peterkee enter together.)



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(Dirck in pantomime shows Peterkee how to hold and swing the ball, healt one her to follow him as he mounts upon a rocky ledge. She follows him gardingles her ball)













through which straggles a single feeble beam of moonlight, touching the forms of Rip and Peterkee on the pak























(Dirck draws Hendrick further aside, where they converse in pantomime, meaning terkee follows Rip to the rocky ledge, where he begins to swing his ball as she if strates with him)









(He throws the ball, which emits lightning followed by thunder.)















eminence, the others below him. There he seizes a ball, sets aside his flagon and begins to bowl. During bowling, and the song which accompanies it, he pauses between throws to drink again and again, ever more attactically drunk, while the Boatswain replenishes his flagon. The far-off voices of Peterkee and Dirck are be calling from the path below.)

Allegro molto

Peterkee (off stage)

















(As the Chorus sings again it grows gradually fainter, while the ghostly forms of Hendrick and his Crevall appear in shadowy mist below, leaving only the figure of Rip palely visible in a beam of the moon)

















District Locale













Pin.

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Red.

Pa



form . of . Rip Van Winkle, . the . sound . of . their . chorus . . fading . . . ever . . farther







Entr'acte II









ACT III

Scene I

(After a brief introduction, the Curtain rises, revealing again the peak of the mountain.)







(There Rip himself is still lying, but now his form is weatherbeaten and half naked, and his tanned features are straggled round by long-grown gray hair and beard. Beside him lies his fewlingpiece, where he laid it down before bette gan bowling, now rusty and weatherworn like himself. Peering at him where he lies, some of the fairy creatures circles. in a quaint round dance, while the others sing. During their singing, over which one crow-like Fairy presides like a choreleader,







Red.

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Tea









(The mists grow denser, then-after a moment of semi-obscurity-part again, discovering the outlines of a ruined chimney and fireplace, surrounded by the crumbled remains of Rip's hut. Through its broken floor and vine-grown walls, trees, bushes and weeds are growing in tangled masses)



Woman enters. Her face has a childlike freshness. She is dressed in bridal attire, and glances back listening as the man's voice calls again.)













from behind, and the grey-bearded face of Rip peers forth, turning his old weather-scarred features toward Peter-kee. Gazing from her to his ruined hearth, he speaks, hesitatingly.)





































Scene III

As the lonely cry of the Whippoorwill dies away, the darkness begins to be filled with contrasted semi of galety and hubbub, in the rhythm of a lively dance-tune, as returning light reveals the scene of Ad I; the hour of approaching sunset.



The Scene itself is altered somewhat by the lapse of time. The church and its porch are partly overgrows a ivry; the tree which shades the Inn is visibly larger: over the door of the lan floats a flag with thirteen stan, a a new swinging sign-painted with a crude portrait of an officer in uniform—shows the lettered Inscription:

The General Washington Inn

The place, moreover, has none of the drowsy quietude of the First Act, but bustles with a new energy. Pusin garments of an altered fashion are gathered together; some, in gossipy pantomime, are standing by the chporch; others, near the Inn, are watching a group of wedding guests, who are dancing - to the music of fiddir about the bridegroom, Hans Van Bummel, a sort of second edition of his brother Jan. Hans-blindfolded in temidst-is being spun round and put through various motions by the dancers, as they and the onlookers singlerus, clapping their hands at three intervals.

After the first interval, the Best Man is thrust-also blindfolded-into the circle; after the second, beth i put through pantomine indicated by the words of their song, then-unblindfolded-are thrust out of the sin amid laughing shouts, after the final refrain.







(During the dance Katrina and Jan have come out of the Inn. Katrina, now stout and matronly, and Jan, grown even larger in his fat bulk, are accompanied by a procession of their offspring of various sizes and



sexes, all in their best clothes, some of whom join in the last of the singing and dancing. Observing this, Katrina screams at them shrilly, slapping the three youngest in succession.)

















(Round the Inn now at back, left, a crowd of Children enter, hooting, pointing and throwing chaff at an outlandish figure in their midst- the old tat-



tered greybeard Rip Van Winkle, to whom they have tied various rattling pans and odd litter, mocking him with antics, while they shout in shrill chorus.)































a misterious returning light reveals Rip no longer white-bearded and old but waggish and young again, as before his mountain sleep. Laughing he looks round at the astounded and terror-struck Dutch Folk-Micholas, Derrick, Katrina, Jan, and their progeny-who, rigid and aghast, tumble over like rows of ninepins, as the voice of Hendrick is heard calling.

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(And now the windows of the church and porch glow with golden light; the quivering thunder of anomaly sounding within begins to peal, and out from the porch, in a blaze of miraculous colour, troop forth fatter forms of the old Dutch Sailors, Hendrick Hudson and his crew. Over their sailors garb, they wear bright-in











* Entire Female Chorus should be used from now till end.









